

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 11 ANKARA 004149

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL KCRM PHUM KWMN SMIG KFRD PREF TU TIP IN TURKEY  
SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, July 1-15,  
2005

¶1. In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

¶2. Published by Sabah on Friday, July 1:

TITLE: COMLEKCI, A BASE FOR PROSTITUTION

BEGIN TEXT: Prostitutes, who established a major prostitution market in Turkey following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, are using the Comlekci district of Trabzon as their base. These women, most of whom entered the country through Trabzon, gather at the hotels in Comlekci. Women, who are bought and sold as a commodity, go to the other parts of Turkey from here. In other words, trillions of TL exchange hands overnight in Comlekci where both wholesale and retail are available.

The overnight charge in general \$100. Each woman to be sent to other places such as Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya, Bodrum and Marmaris are sold for the season for about \$15,000-20,000. Some people buy five or six prostitutes and make them work for the season. Passports of many of the prostitutes, who are brought to Turkey jointly by Turkish and Russian Mafia, are taken away in order to prevent them from escaping.

It was stated that approximately ten hotels which were shut down for prostitution re-opened with new names. Sixteen major operations were carried out in the district since 1998.

Before prostitutes arrived, there were six hotels in Comlekci. Today there are 37. The number of restaurants increased from four to 45. There is a cafeteria almost at every corner. Many murders took place over women in Comlekci, one of the oldest residential areas in the town.

An official from the U.S. Embassy who visited Trabzon two years ago carried out research in the province and went to Comlekci and showed Turkey as a Third World country involved in women trafficking.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1988, thousands of women with higher education but unemployed poured into the Black Sea region through the Sarp Border Gate. Women tried to earn a living initially by selling the goods they brought at the Russian Bazaar. They even brought tank tracks. After a short while, in line with the demands of regional people, they changed sectors and moved on to prostitution. From that moment on they assumed the name "Natasha." These women were earning a lot of money in return for love in Turkey. They received money (in Turkey) for love they were giving freely in their own country. Soon the Mafia noticed the money involved. The prostitution sector boomed fast when Turkish and Russian organized crime gangs began to act together.

Foreign prostitutes eventually were totally under the control of the Turkish and Russian Mafia that takes care of the women it employs.

A couple of ways are used for bringing these women to Turkey. Women mostly are brought through joint works by the Turkish and Russian Mafia. The Russian wing of the underground sends women via highway, air or sea. As soon as they arrive, they are met by the Turkish wing of the Mafia. Gangs take women under their own protection and don't allow them to work by themselves. Also Turkish gangs bring women under the guise of serving a waitress, salesperson, nanny and then take away their passports and force them to work.

Most of these women come to Trabzon and use Comlekci as a base, one of the oldest districts of the town. They are placed in hotels in Comlekci and marketed either in wholesale or retail. In this district with 20,000 residents, trillions of TL exchange hands overnight.

There were only 20 small businessmen until 1998 in this district. Today there are hundreds of small businessmen mostly serving the prostitution sector.

When prostitutes began to arrive in 1989, the number of hotels was only six. Now in the same district there are 37 hotels. The number of restaurants went up to 15 from four and there are 30 places serving meatballs. There are also dozens of cafes in the district that have turned into places where these women are marketed. They charge at least \$100 per night and prostitutes in sexy clothes show themselves off to clients at those cafes. It was reported that ten hotels that were closed because of prostitution re-opened under new names. There have been 16 major operations in the district since 1998.

There are people traveling from very distant places in order to be with these prostitutes. These clients are ready to spend a lot of money. They go and sit at a table at one of those cafes. They look around to pick one of the pretty women sitting around. Later they invite the woman they pick to their table. Alcohol is not served at these cafes. Clients can order tea or soft drinks but a soft drink that normally will cost 1 m, is sold for 30 m TL.

At the table they first order a soft drink. Women charge around \$100 per night. If the man agrees to pay this amount, he pays the money to the woman there and they leave together. But the night is not over unless the woman is served a meal at a restaurant before going to a hotel. Later she asks him to take her to a bar or a disco. Finally they end up at a hotel.

Tomorrow: Rich Turks lock up women in their private houses (for this purpose). When they are bored they replace her. Some women, in order to work, enter into fake marriages. TNP report: Security forces, too, are involved. END TEXT.

13. The following was also in the Friday July 1 edition of Sabah:

TITLE: THEIR STORIES ARE ALL THE SAME

BEGIN TEXT: We were at a night club where women are sold in Aksaray. As I sat at a table with a friend, our table was filled with food. Later tall and blonde women who looked somewhere between 17 and 25 walked in. From that point on the bargaining began.

I learned about the meaning of this ceremony after talking to a friend who is experienced with Aksaray. He said, "You go to the woman you like and ask her the price. It is approximately \$100. If you find it expensive, you sit down and go back to her after ten minutes to ask for a price again. In general women won't bring down the price. So every ten minutes you go back and check the price again. That is why you see a lot of people moving between the tables and on the dancing floor."

During my research I witnessed that this bargaining begins in dollars and end up in YTL. Late that night I learned that a man with a moustache and who has a textile plant in Ikitelli, could bring down \$100 price only to 100 YTL, certainly excluding the 70 YTL hotel fee.

After watching women dancing in very short skirts in an inviting fashion I approached one. My intention was to invite her to the table and listen to her story. As soon as Moldavian Mirabella came to my table and began to talk in broken Turkish, waiters brought her Malibu. I thought Malibu was a bar in Aksaray. Mirabella told me her sad story with her Turkish. "I was studying biology at the state university in Moldova. After graduating I could not find a job. I came to Turkey to serve as a nanny. Finally I ended up doing this job. My father was a teacher. Turkey is very beautiful."

When I asked, "How do you work?" she got bored and said, "\$100." So I responded, "Too expensive, 70 YTL?" I asked for the bill. The bill brought in a dark cover was 290 YTL. I asked the waiter what was this all about and he said, "We accept credit cards." I learned about the meaning of these remarks during my early research. "Don't object to the bill. If you are coming here you must have either cash or a credit card. Or else, we will take you to the guest house."

What is a guest house? Erdal T. who saw a guest house explained, "I took a friend out for entertainment. We had two glasses of raki. There were some appetizers. The bill was 1.4 billion TL. I objected and the waiter

told me that they accepted a credit card. When I objected again, bodyguards came from the gate. They took us to a guest house. When the man behind a desk cursed, a waiter began to kick me. They took away my credit card, along with a chain and bracelet that my mother gave me as a gift. They constantly kicked my legs. Later I called a friend and paid 900 YTL. I got back my mother's gift but after my friend brought me money."

Tomorrow: What does a buffer zone mean? END TEXT.

14. Also in Friday, July 1st edition of Sabah:

TITLE: SHE WAS PUT IN A HOUSE AND TORTURED

BEGIN TEXT: Scary data by IOM on human trafficking in Turkey confirm the New York Times article last week.

According to IOM, 50 percent of women who are deceived and brought to Turkey from Russia and the CIS are between 19 and 25. There have been 62 international abduction cases last year and that figure is 97 this year. These figures include those whose passports are taken away and who are forced to work and not those who come to Turkey and voluntarily work as prostitutes. Most of these women come from Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Russia. About 40 percent of them are forced to work in Istanbul and the rest in provinces such as Antalya and Ankara.

Many of them are locked up in houses. For those women who are afraid to go to the police the way out is suicide. They end up either being paralyzed or die. The most striking example to this is a 17-year-old Ukrainian who jumped from the apartment she was locked up in last year. She remains paralyzed for life. IOM is taking care of her.

STORIES OF WOMEN WHO CALLED 157 AND WHO ARE SAVED AND REPATRIATED:

STORY NUMBER 1: Moldovan Ms X, who has three kids, accepted to go to work in Turkey when she could not make a living for her family. She found herself in a village house in Antalya. Her passport was taken away. When she resisted, she was beaten and a gun was put to her head. She was not allowed to leave the house and she began to have sex for money. When one day she was taken to a hotel to a client, she dialed the number she noticed in Moldova. Those who answered directed her to the 157 hotline in Turkey. The operator called 155 in Antalya and she was saved. After staying at the shelter in Istanbul for a while, she was sent back to her country.

STORY NUMBER 2: Romanian cook Ms Y could not make ends meet. She signed a contract to work at a casino in Turkey. She was asked to work in the prostitution sector. Even the cigarette she smoked were charged as debt. She was not allowed to return home. When she had gone to the Turkish Embassy for a visa, she called Hotline 157 that she saw at the airport. Along with Y, eight girls were saved. But the others, except Y, did not want to go back without money and they did not file a complaint because they were afraid. Y returned to her country after staying at the shelter in Istanbul.

TOMORROW: Mission Impossible END TEXT.

15. The last article published in Sabah on Friday, July 1:

TITLE: The Purpose Is to Help Victims

BEGIN TEXT: Iskender Okyay, head of the MFA Consular Department explained the goal of the 157 Hotline as, "Women who are brought to Turkey by deceit and forced to work are victims. Our goal is to help those who are victims. Those who work in this sector are seen as criminals. But they might be victimized."

Okyay explained that NGOs are trained to work with the police and Jandarma. He added that responsibility lies on all units. END TEXT.

16. Published by Tercuman on Friday, July 1:

TITLE: You're a Natasha - Emin Pazarci

BEGIN TEXT: Four young girls who are members of a Russian music group spent a vacation in Turkey and when they went back to their country wrote a song.

The name of the song is "You're a Natasha."

This song became very popular and turned the Russian

music market upside down.

The song ridicules the Natasha market in Turkey, as well as the Turkish men who pursue Russian women and the mentality that regards Russians as Natashas.

They are not wrong. The UN report says, "Forty percent of women abducted for prostitution are employed in Istanbul and 16 percent in Antalya and Ankara."

Add to this ours (Turkish prostitutes) and imagine?

Yesterday there was a piece in "Sabah." The prostitution sector in Istanbul was under scrutiny. Pictures of prostitution next to the Fatih Police Station were published.

Certainly this is only one of the examples.

This is the case in Istanbul but is it any different in other towns?

Certainly not. Turkey has turned into an open market for women. Similar pictures are seen in the capital Ankara 100 meters from the parliament. Bargaining goes on the streets for women.

Turkey has turned into an open prostitution market. Open prostitution markets operate under the guise of a bar. You enter and make a bargain with the person you like. If you reach an agreement, you take her and go.

Massage parlors are booming in the neighborhood. But these are actually prostitution operations.

What is worse is that police cars are waiting in front of these woman markets at nighttime. All bargaining takes place in front of the eyes of policemen.

In the past such things were done secretly. Now everything is permitted. Those who market women no longer hide themselves. They are proudly walking around. They will almost brag saying that they are earning a living by serving as a pimp.

Now hold on to your seats. A few days ago we encountered an incredible incident next to the Ankara bureau of "Tercuman." Obviously things were not going well at those bars that market women. The owners brought a ram. They slaughtered it in front of the building to increase their income and for the market to grow. And that is not all. They put the blood of the sacrifice on the poster of a woman working at that bar. Maybe they also prayed, "God, may you increase the money we earn from prostitution. Let's sell more women and let's earn more money."

This is the point we have reached in the prostitution market. It is grave. Values have been eroded so much and they are so mixed up now.

There are now those in this country who beg God to let them earn money from a sacrilegious thing and from being immoral. If things go like this I know what will happen. The UN will prepare new reports. In those reports we won't be referred as one of the countries that employ abducted women only. We will also break a record in venereal disease. For example, we will earn the title of having the most AIDS patients because there are no measures taken.

Nobody is bothered much about the erosion of values and this human drama that are experienced in Turkey. END TEXT.

17. Published by Sabah on Saturday, July 2:

TITLE: AKSARAY: BUFFER ZONE

BEGIN TEXT: I went on a tour in Aksaray one night. It has an interesting atmosphere with its blinking lights, although not like Las Vegas. Whoever goes to Aksaray for entertainment pays a hefty bill but they are stingy when it comes to tipping. That was what I did as well after paying the 290 m TL bill. I moved to Rosya who was draped in a vine leaf.

The atmosphere was like the movie "Feride" of Emel Sayin. The number of foreign women was double the number of men. As soon as I sat at a table, I noticed that eight women were smiling at me.

I began to tour the streets. The pimps in Aksaray are all wearing pants and a shirt. Even if one goes to ISKI to pay a water bill, these pimps may approach them

asking, "Do you need a place, brother?" Or they ask, "Do you want entertainment?" They check whether clients are interested in 15-year old Romanians or Bulgarians. Those who may respond that they were going to pay a bill at ISKI, they insist, "But when I say girls, I don't mean street walkers. I mean virgins."

In Aksaray around midnight an open woman market operates in the middle of the street which is 30 meters to the police station. It is the borderline between Eminonu and Fatih, the most populated sub-provinces. Police units have a dispute over who are in charge of this particular street. Street walkers reportedly cross the street and from the other side wave at the police when law enforcement officers from one of the two sub-provinces arrive at the site. This street looks like a buffer zone under the control of the UN. The only missing thing is the UN patrol/police.

**18. Published by Sabah on Saturday, July 2:**

**TITLE: \$100 PER NIGHT AND \$20,000 PER SEASON**

BEGIN TEXT: In the Comlekci district of Trabzon women are sold for the night or for the season. Clients from various parts of Turkey and particularly from Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya, Bodrum and Marmaris, buy the women they like along with their passports for the season. They sometimes buy five or six together wholesale and take these women to their region and make them work until their time is up.

Some of these women are presented as room service at luxurious hotels. Some of them are kept in special apartments rented for entertainment by rich residents of Trabzon. When the client gets bored, he replaces her with another.

Prostitution rings resort to fake marriages in order to make these women work. They marry them to deranged or very old and even sometimes deceased people in order to make these women obtain Turkish citizenship.

Gultekin Yucesan, Human Rights Association Trabzon branch president, said that an officer from the U.S. Embassy arrived in the region two years ago and toured Trabzon and Rize. He noted that she reported to the U.S. Embassy that Turkey was a 3rd world country that sells women. Yucesan noted that these women, whose passports and money are taken away, have begun to apply to the police against the type of uncivilized treatment that they have been subject to. He said, "The U.S. always sent officials to Trabzon to study this issue."

There have been some incidents where the names of gendarmerie and high-level police officers were involved in some bribery incidents in Trabzon which is a center for prostitution. A colonel and a TNP official were sacked and prosecuted for bribery. END TEXT.

**19. Published by Sabah on Saturday, July 2:**

**TITLE: NO DIFFERENT THAN A SECRET SERVICE**

BEGIN TEXT: For the first time in the world a hotline was established in order to save women who are forced into prostitution in Turkey. This toll free 157 line is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It can be called from anywhere in Turkey. Professionals from IOM who speak Russian, Romanian, English and Turkish answer the phone. They are showing a way out to victimized women who are afraid to go to the police.

The hotline operators inform the police and gendarmerie about women whose lives are at risk. Organized crime gangs that are losing money for every woman they lose have been calling the hotline and making threats. Identities and locations of operators who receive death threats are kept secret. Operators keep their profession as well as their taped conversation with callers a secret. Women who are saved are accompanied to a plane by IOM and they are met by NGOs in their country. They are returned to their families. END TEXT.

**110. Published by The Journal of Turkish Weekly on Sunday, July 3:**

**TITLE: US: Armenian State Supports Trafficking**

BEGIN TEXT: US State secretary chief advisor, head of the Human Trafficking Combat and Monitoring office, Ambassador John Miller said that Armenia is a source country from where women and girls are trafficked mainly to the Middle Eastern countries including

Turkey. According to Mr. Miller, the basis of the office report were the calculations of the UN according to which in the Arabian states and Turkey there are about 1000 Armenian prostitutes. The majority of them are victims of trafficking. On the other hand, the calculations of the Armenian Investigating Journalists Association President Edik Bagdasaryan, the number of Armenian prostitutes is more than 5,000 in the region. Mr. Miller was greatly surprised by the facts and demanded proof on what was said.

According to the report of the US State secretary chief advisor "The Republic of Armenia Government did not represent sufficient proof that the efforts directed to the combat against trafficking have been enhanced. The Government has not carried out investigation of the Prosecution which was accused of supporting the traffickers. The Prosecution bodies have supported those organizing trafficking, and the border-guards, taking bribes, have secured the free transportation abroad."

Stating that the RA Government does not fully correspond to the criteria combating trafficking, Mr. Miller mentioned that in our country the punishments for this kind of deeds are too mild. END TEXT.

¶11. Reported by Vatan on Sunday, July 3:

TITLE: Prostitution Operation in Aksaray and Laleli; 170 Women Arrested

BEGIN TEXT: Istanbul Fatih Security Directorate teams raided Aksaray and Laleli bars and disco-type entertainment areas, especially at late-night hours, looking for foreign women without passports, visas or those practicing prostitution. One hundred seventy foreign women were arrested during the operation. Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian and Azeri women were taken to the hospital with buses from the Cevik Kuvvet station. There were reports that prostitution was rampant in Aksaray and Laleli in the operation's last days. It was learned that most of the women did not have visas. END TEXT.

¶12. Written by Fatih Altayli and published in Hurriyet on Saturday, July 2:

TITLE: Can Woman Trade be a Tourism Aspect?

BEGIN TEXT: I received hundreds of faxes, e-mail and telephone messages following my piece on the Russian women trade-Mafia involvement in Turkey. The most interesting was a telephone call by a businessman. I'm conveying to you exactly what he told me:

"Fatih bey, I do not agree with what you wrote. This business is affecting positively the tourism potential of Turkey and Istanbul in particular. I would like to share with you what I experienced."

"Recently one of my clients visited me from abroad. I gave him a tour and hosted him at very chic places in Istanbul. As I was dropping him off at his hotel, in the evening, he asked me whether I could find him a girlfriend. Since I knew nothing on this issue, I called a friend who was familiar with it. He gave me the address of a Club Bacardi in Aksaray. We went there. We looked for it for quite some time, but we could not find it. Finally we asked some policemen. They showed us. We went. It was similar to a famous night club in Moscow. There were hundreds of women inside, each having a different look. We talked to an official there. My client reached an agreement with one of the women brought to him. He took her to his hotel."

"The next day he was very happy. He said that he would come to Istanbul more often and that in one of the European countries he saw such service. Indeed there were a lot of tourists at the Club Bacardi."

"This situation reminded me of Amsterdam. There, there is an area called the Red Light District. This is the biggest tourism center of Amsterdam. Even in the guide books on Amsterdam, this district is praised. There, too, Russian women are in majority. When this is happening in the center of Europe and in its most modern city, what do you want from Istanbul and Antalya? On the contrary, you can use this as a promotion element and an attraction center."

Esteemed readers, I wanted to convey to you this different point of view.

Do you agree? END TEXT.

113. Published by Vatan on Thursday, July 7:

TITLE: Mysterious campaign against prostitution in Igdır

BEGIN TEXT: An interesting campaign against prostitution has started in Igdır. Posters with "No to Prostitution" and "Don't cry, take claim of your wife" were posted on electric poles on governorship roads. Despite all the investigation, it is still not known who prepared and hung the posters which picture a crying woman. END TEXT.

114. Published by The New Anatolian on Thursday, July 7:

TITLE: Gendarmerie steps up anti-trafficking efforts

BEGIN TEXT: To fight human trafficking, Gendarmerie Command deploying special teams in 23 cities

Turkey's Gendarmerie Command has stepped up its efforts to halt human trafficking by deploying special teams in 23 cities, in the face of a recent rise in the crime. According to official sources, the Gendarmerie Command has conducted a wide-ranging study on human trafficking in Turkey. Its findings were published in the brochure "Fighting Human Trafficking." A total of 150,000 brochures were printed, with 50,000 in both Russian and Turkish. The contents of the study are broken down into the following categories:

- An overview of the crime
- The fate of its victims
  - How to escape
  - How to spot a human trafficking victim
- Warnings for potential victims
  - How to contact the gendarmerie

#### Focus on 23 cities

The gendarmerie focused its efforts on 23 cities where evidence of human trafficking has recently risen. According to the gendarmerie report, the cities under the microscope are as follows: Istanbul, Ankara, Antalya, Aydin, Izmir, Mugla, Adana, Mersin, Gaziantep, Artvin, Ardahan, Kars, Igdır, Trabzon, Giresun, Rize, Ordu, Samsun, Balikesir, Yalova, Diyarbakir, Van and Elazig.

The gendarmerie sent out special teams, in collaboration with several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), to fight the trafficking. The collaborative efforts resulted in five seminars held in Rize, Adana, Istanbul and Antalya, which also included the participation of Turkish representatives from the International Refugee Organization (IRO). At these seminars nearly 200 personnel were trained for the difficult task of recognizing and fighting human trafficking, while doing whatever possible to help the victims.

#### Victims and traffickers

Here is the number of people, both trafficker and trafficked, and their countries of origin, that the gendarmerie intercepted during the September 2003-December 2004 period:

#### Victims by country of origin

Moldova (66), Turkey (27), Ukraine (21), Russia (10), Azerbaijan (8), Romania (1), Uzbekistan (8), Kyrgyzstan (2), Autonomous Russian Republic of Dagestan (2), Belarus (1), Turkmenistan (1), and Armenia (1).

#### Traffickers by country of origin

Turkey (119), Azerbaijan (8), and Russia (1).

#### Intervention in 42 incidents

A statement from the Gendarmerie Command General Secretariat urged states in the region to acknowledge that "human trafficking has recently begun to threaten individuals, societies and whole states." Not only Turkey, but the whole world has a role to play, especially in trafficking done on account of prostitution, it said.

"As our country borders and lies near countries used as resources centers for human trafficking, it frequently faces charges of being the target country for human trafficking," the general secretariat said. The gendarmerie stresses the importance of fighting this crime, and said that it has intervened in 42 human

trafficking incidents between September 2003 and December 2004. It reported that a total of 148 victims were saved from the hands of traffickers, and 128 suspects were arrested. END TEXT.

115. Published by Milliyet on Thursday, July 7:

TITLE: Russians Brought Prostitution

BEGIN TEXT: In an Istanbul guide book distributed to architects by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, it was claimed that Russian women fleeing the Bolshevik Revolution offended the morals of the city. The "Istanbul City Guide," prepared by the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul and distributed to the architects at the 22nd World Architects Convention, accused Russian women fleeing the Bolshevik Revolution of offending the morals of the city.

The guide did not refer to the Republican reforms. It stated, "Ladies in Istanbul liked the clothing of Russian women who fled the Bolshevik Revolution and emigrated to Istanbul and they became the fashion. The people of Istanbul, pioneered by Russian immigrants, for the first time went to the shore and swam."

In the chapter entitled "Enemy Occupation and Truce," on pages 43 and 46, the lifestyle of women during the occupation years was described as, "during occupation the public and youngsters participated in demonstrations in Istanbul. Aside from demonstrations, another important development was the establishment of some secret services that were working for independence. Some of them were "Karakol Birligi, Mim Grubu, Mudafa-i-Milliye." Back in those years people in Istanbul were constantly moving. They were leaving occupied Istanbul and moving to places in Anatolia not under occupation. Meanwhile, Russians fleeing the Bolshevik Revolution were moving to Istanbul. They had a major impact on Istanbul and its people.

Istanbul ladies liked the clothing of Russian women very much and because a fashion. The people of Istanbul, pioneered by Russians, for the first time went to the shore to swim. During this period, Istanbul's nightlife became livelier, despite the occupation. There was great interest in concerts at cafes, theatre troupes and movies. Bars and pastry shops were introduced to Istanbul as alternatives to taverns. All these brought along a moral collapse. Prostitution by Russian women working at these places began to take over the city.

Milliyet's front-page story yesterday titled "Strange Guide Book by Municipality" resonated. The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality did not make an announcement on the issue.

Oktay Ekinci, Chairman of the Union of Turkish Architects and Engineer Chambers, said, "This is very good reporting. We learned about this when we read Milliyet."

Ekinci added that the official host of the Convention was the Chamber of Architects and that the Metropolitan Municipality was supporting the event as the municipality of the host city. He added, "I do not believe that Kadir Topbas deliberately distributed this guide book to achieve a political goal. Probably some people in the Municipality wanted to take advantage of the convention and give such a message to world architects. It is very wrong to blacken the Republican regime when the regime enabled us to be together with the world."

The CHP, too, reacted to the guidebook. Nigde Deputy Orhan Eraslan said, "Their real intention is apparent. They demonstrated that they are against the Republic."

Ankara Deputy Muzaffer Kurtulmusoglu added, "One can understand the mentality of the May or when he told foreigners that it would be better if there were a caliphate."

Istanbul Deputy Kemal Kilicdaroglu said, "All these indicate the path that the AKP wants to drag Turkey into."

Dursun Atilgan, Chairman of the Ataturkist Thought Association Federation said, "The Metropolitan Municipality demonstrated that it was against the Republican regime."

One of the two editors of the guidebook was Ibrahim Uslu, husband of AKP Istanbul Deputy Zeynep Karahan Uslu and ANAR polling company director general. Uslu

answered our questions:

--Did you prepare the guidebook?

--It was prepared as a CD in 1995 for Habitat (for Humanity). It was distributed to delegates who came to Istanbul for the Habitat Conference. Later it was turned into a book.

--An updated copy of the book was distributed at the Architect's Conference. Were you aware of this fact?  
--I was not aware of it. The project ended for us in 1996.

--Is it correct to introduce the St. Sophia Museum as a mosque to foreign architects at a major conference?  
--St. Sophia as a mosque and building is important from an architectural point of view. But on the CD it was also listed in the museum section as well. I cannot say anything about the book version.

--Where did you get this information for the book?  
--I did not write some of the articles. I need to check the old files.

--There was no reference to the War of Independence and Ataturk.

--In the history of Istanbul, the city was not liberated from the enemy occupation by Turkish armies. We did not fight against the British.

--Didn't the British evacuate the town because of the success of the War of Independence?  
--Certainly.

#### COMMENTS ON THE ARTICLE

Norge: Somebody should say "Stop" to this government and its followers who keep coming up with a meaningless anti-Russian (attitude). The biggest contribution to Turkish tourism comes from more than one million Russian tourists. How can our Tourism Minister, who does not know what he's talking about, and the Istanbul Municipality, which doesn't know itself, make such mistakes? It is also not true. Prostitution has long existed (in Istanbul).

Garibistan Vatandasi: In the 1950s we talked about a famous brothel owner of those days. In the 1960s we talked about actresses not becoming famous unless they entered the bedrooms of directors. IN the 1970s the brothels and gambling dens. Many things happened to ignored girls who wanted to be movie stars. In 1980 the prostitution sector bosses became champion taxpayers. You forgot all this and put the blame on Russians as the magnificent and sleeping Tourism Minister put it. Uggghhh.

Uhizon: There was prostitution definitely before the Russians arrived. Those who claimed that there was no prostitution must be ignorant about history. If one reads a bit of history, one will learn this. One will be surprised with what one learns.

Ahlak: I know what you are trying to do. Leave the Government (of Turkey) alone. What is the point of making things this ugly? This is blackening Islam. Your intentions are clear. These people are enemies of the state. This is only a ploy by those who are jealous of the current administration.

Orion2002: 1. What is the connection between Russian women and Municipality's architects chamber meeting? If there was going to be a brochure published, it should have been on architecture. 2. With the coming of Russian women, a movement began in fields such as movies, theatre and art. Do they mean that art hurts the morals of the public? 3. Recently anti-Semitic publications and rhetoric hurt the country a lot. Now the same thing is done against Russians. When will we not care about this indiscreteness? Doesn't the Mayor check what was written?

Uygar koc: Correct. We say that a person who tells the truth is not welcomed anywhere. Unfortunately what was written in the guidebook is correct. There is no need to be angry for the truth in the guidebook. You cannot hide it.

Ayhan Ersoy: How easy is it to slander somebody? I'm not in the position to defend the Russians, but as long as Turkish men cannot control themselves, does it really matter who spreads prostitution whether it's Russian women or women who belong to other nations? Obviously these women are not raping the men! END TEXT.

16. Reported by Vatan on Friday, July 8:

TITLE: 3,000 Children are Sold Each Day

BEGIN TEXT: UNICEF announced that 3,000 children are sold and forced into prostitution each day around the world.

The victims are from poverty-stricken countries like eastern European Moldova. UNICEF representative Kirsten Leyendecker said in response to those people from western countries who pay children to enter into relations with them, "Those who have sexual relations with children and 'sex tourists' should be heavily punished." According to research on the German-Czech Republic border, one in every seven children is approached with an offer for sex for money, but that these offering people are not punished." END TEXT.

MCELDOWNEY